

melanostictus. Both the females were gravid with ripe eggs.

Ecological notes: Two individuals were collected from the short-grass patch in the thick forest during a shower, whereas one specimen was picked up from the wet soil covered with wet leaf litter in the forest. The toadlets of *Bufo koynayensis* were seen hopping around along with the common toad *Bufo melanostictus* on the forest floor. However, the Koyna toad was not sighted with the common toad in any other habitat except the forest habitat, while the common toad was sighted everywhere in the forest as well as around human habitation in the town. The numbers of the Koyna toad were less compared with other amphibian species at the same site. It seems the population of this toad is poor even in the forest habitat.

The Koyna toad, *Bufo koynayensis*, is considered as an endemic species of Maharashtra

since its first description in 1963. No information is available on its distribution either within the state or outside it for about 32 years. The recent record of this species from Amboli at the southern border of Maharashtra, on the Western Ghats, indicates that this species may occur in the neighbouring states of Karnataka and Goa also.

I thank Dr. Jay Samant, ex-Director, BNHS, who initiated the survey of South Maharashtra and Mr Vithoba Hegde who accompanied me during the survey. I thank the BNHS for financial support and the forest department, Savantwadi, for their cooperation during my visit in Amboli.

June 12, 1996

ALOYSIUS G. SEKAR

Herpetology Section

Bombay Natural History Society

Hornbill House, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Road

Mumbai 400 023.

REFERENCES

DUTTA, S.K. (1992): Amphibians of India: Updated species list with distribution record. *Hamadryad* 17: 1-13.
 FROST, D.R. (1985): Amphibian species of the world. A Taxonomic and Geographical reference. Allen Press Inc. and The Association of Systematic Collections

Lawrence, Kansas, U.S.A.
 GRANDISON, A.G.C. & J.C. DANIEL (1964): Description of a new species of Toad (Anura: Bufonidae) from Satara District, Maharashtra, India. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 61: 192-194.

22. OCCURRENCE OF *RAMANELLA VARIEGATA* (ANURA: MICROHYLIDAE) IN WEST BENGAL WITH NOTES ON ITS DISTRIBUTION IN INDIA

On the evening of 13th April, 1996, a small microhylid frog with yellow blotches on the back was collected from the toilet of the Banspahari Forest Rest House, Banspahari Range, West Midnapore Forest Division, Midnapore District, West Bengal. It was identified as *Ramanella variegata* (Stoliczka, 1872). The specimen, a male with brown spots on the throat and measuring 21 mm from snout to vent was deposited at the National Zoological Collections (Regn No. A8748), Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta. As the species has not been included in the Z.S.I.'s State Fauna Series:

Fauna of West Bengal, Amphibia (Sarkar *et al*, 1992) and had not been reported from Midnapore district (Mansukhani and Sarkar, 1977), this specimen constitutes the first record of the species from West Bengal.

The species is known from Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa and extralimittally from Sri Lanka. While Daniel (1963) claimed the species to be rare, recorded mainly from eastern peninsular India upto Chanda in Madhya Pradesh, Murthy (1968) who reported it from Madras, claimed it to be common. The species

along with two others, *R. montana* (Jerdon, 1854) and *R. triangularis* (Gunther, 1875) was referred to the genus *Callula* till Rao and Ramanna (1925) revised and renamed it under the genus *Ramanella*. Not much is known about the biology of the species. Rao and Ramanna (1925) report that the species is found in *termitaria* or under stones in association with large black scorpions *Heterometrus* sp. They live mostly underground and emerge only after heavy rains when their loud call *ghauy ghauy* can be heard throughout the night. The advertisement call was studied by Kanamadi *et al.* (1993) while its

breeding and development was studied by Dutta *et al.* (1991).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank S.K. Chanda of Z.S.I. and S.K. Dutta of Utkal University for confirming the identification of the specimen.

April 12, 1997

KAUSHIK DEUTI
39A, Gobinda Auddy Rd,
Block 'A' Flat No. 3/1,
Calcutta-700 027.

REFERENCES

- DANIEL, J.C. (1963): Field guide to the amphibians of Western India. II. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 60(3): 690-702.
- DUTTA, S.K., S. JENA & P. MOHANTY-HEJMADI (1991): Breeding and development of *Ramanella variegata* (Anura: Microhylidae). *J. Zool. Soc. Ind.* 42: 55-76.
- KANAMADI, R.D., C.R. HIREMATH & H. SCHNEIDER (1993): The advertisement call of the south Indian frog *Ramanella variegata* (Microhylidae). *J. Herpetology* 27(2): 218-219.
- MANSUKHANI, M.R. & A.K. SARKAR (1977): Amphibians of Midnapore dist. West Bengal. *Newsl. Zool. Surv. Ind.* 3(4): 156-157.
- MURTHY, T.S.N. (1968): Notes on a rare and interesting microhylid frog (*Ramanella variegata* Stol.) from Madras. *J. Univ. Bombay* 36(3 & 5): 1-3.
- RAO, C.R.N. & B.S. RAMANNA (1925): On a new genus of the family Engystomatidae (*Batrachia*). *Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond.* 587-597.
- SARKAR, A.K., M.L. BISWAS & S. RAY (1992): Amphibia In: Fauna of West Bengal. *Zool Surv. Ind. State Fauna Series 3, Part 2*: 67-100.

23. *CHAGUNIUS CHAGUNIO* (HAMILTON-BUCHANAN) (PISCES: CYPRINIDAE): A NEW RECORD FROM KUMAON HILLS, UTTAR PRADESH

(With one text-figure)

During the course of observation of fishes caught by a fisherman from Kali-Sharda river from Baramdeo (240 m above msl near Tanakpur) a fish was observed, which was later identified as *Chagunius chagunio* (Hamilton-Buchanan). The river stretch where the fish was caught is a transition zone where the mountainous river (Kali) reaches the plains; further downstream, the river is known as Sharda. The river is very deep and moderately rapid at this zone and the substratum consists of rocks and sand.

The above mentioned fish was caught along with *Tor putitora* and *Labeo dero* on July

29, 1997 from the flooded river with the help of a locally fabricated gill net. *C. chagunio* has not been reported from Kumaon hills in earlier studies (Hora 1937, Menon 1949 and Pant 1970).

Chagunius chagunio Hamilton-Buchanan

Weight 217.0 g., Total length 27.5 cm., Standard length 22.5 cm., Head length 5.5 cm., Body depth 6.0 cm.

Local name: Musaina, Dhuiyan.

Diagnostic features: D. I 8; P iii 12; V ii 8; A ii 6; C. 22; L. 1 46